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EXAMINER	
MOE, AUNG SOE	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2612	13

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/324,778	HYODO, MANABU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Aung S. Moe	2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed on Jan 09, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claim 4, 6, 13, and 14, the Applicant alleged that "Cho '287, however, does not continuously vary **a speed of change** of a parameter based on the signal."

In response, the Examiner respectfully disagrees because Cho '287 does in fact disclose the above-mentioned claimed limitations. It cleared form Figs 9 and 12A-12C that the controller 18 is capable of continuously varying a speed of change of a parameter (i.e., continuously varying the magnification of the zoom lens based on the pressure applied is determined; see col. 8, lines 65+). Further, it is clearly evidenced from column 8, lines 40+ of Cho '287, it is clearly stated that "*the change in the pressure is detected in the range of 0 to 225 (Z values), and the magnification by zooming is calculated on the basis of the pressure signal . . .*", and Cho '287 further stated in column 8, lines 65+ that "*the magnification by zooming on the basis of the signal representing the pressure applied to the touch inputting portion 12 (this signal will be referred to "pressure signals" hereinunder). The magnification data, which is proportional to the pressure (**when the pressure low, the magnification is small, and when the pressure is high, the magnification is large**) is calculated and output by the calculator 59.*" In view of this, it is cleared that the controller 18 must continuously vary a speed change of a parameter (i.e.,

changing magnification of zoom lens) on the basis of the pressure applied to the touch panel (12), because in order to change the operation parameters such as zooming (magnification), the zoom speed of the zoom lens must be continuously vary based on the pressure applied on the touch panel is detected as clearly stated by Cho '287.

In view of the above, Cho '287 does in fact disclose the "controller" as recited in claim 13. Claims 4, 6, and 14, dependent on claim 13, are rejected at least for the dependency on claim 13 for the same reasons as discussed above.

With respect to claims 1, 5, and 11, the Applicant alleged that even assuming, *arguendo*, that Ikeda '354 and Tsuneo '202 can be combined, Ikeda '354 in view of Tsuneo '202 fails to disclose or even suggest the "controller" as recited in claim 1.

In response, the Examiner respectfully disagrees because the combination of Ikeda '354 and Tsuneo '202 does in fact disclose the claimed "controller" as recited in claim 1. As previously recited in the Final Office that, the controller 14 of Ikeda '354 detects the pressure changes for performing a respective control function, and Tsuneo '202 clearly suggested that it is desirable to determined the different pressure signals applied on the touch panel by the controller (20) so that the controller performing a first control when the pressure applied on the touch panel (24) is greater than a first predetermined value (i.e., noted the step S2 is changed to the step S3 based on the pressure applied is detected to be greater than a first predetermined value n= 0; see paragraphs 0018+ of Tsuneo '202) and performing a second control when the pressure is greater than a second predetermined value (i.e., noted that the second control function is carried out by the controller 20 if the pressure is greater than the second predetermined value "eight" as shown

in Fig. 5) larger than the first predetermined value (i.e., noted that the second predetermined value "eight" as shown in Fig. 5 step S6 is greater than the first predetermined value "zero" as shown in step S2).

In view of the above, the combination of Kowno '897 and Tsuneo '202 does in fact disclose the "controller" as recited in claim 1, thus, the Examiner continues to be of the opinion that one skilled in the art would have been prompted to combine the cited references for the reasons set forth in the detail rejections below.

With respect to claims 1-3, and 11-12, the Applicant alleged that even assuming, *arguendo*, that Ikeda '354 and Tsuneo '202 can be combined, Kowno '897 in view of Tsuneo '202 fails to disclose or even suggest the "controller" as recited in claim 1.

In response, the Examiner respectfully disagrees because the combination of Kowno '897 and Tsuneo '202 does in fact disclose the claimed "controller" as recited in claim 1. As previously recited in the Final Office that, the controller 39 of Kowno '897 detects the pressure changes for performing a respective control function, and Tsuneo '202 clearly suggested that it is desirable to determined the different pressure signals applied on the touch panel by the controller (20) so that the controller performing a first control when the pressure applied on the touch panel (24) is greater than a first predetermined value (i.e., noted the step S2 is changed to the step S3 based on the pressure applied is detected to be greater than a first predetermined value n= 0; see paragraphs 0018+ of Tsuneo '202) and performing a second control when the pressure is greater than a second predetermined value (i.e., noted that the second control function is carried out by the controller 20 if the pressure is greater than the second predetermined value "eight" as shown

in Fig. 5) larger than the first predetermined value (i.e., noted that the second predetermined value "eight" as shown in Fig. 5 step S6 is greater than the first predetermined value "zero" as shown in step S2).

In view of the above, the combination of Kowno '897 and Tsuneo '202 does in fact disclose the "controller" as recited in claim 1, thus, the Examiner continues to be of the opinion that one skilled in the art would have been prompted to combine the cited references for the reasons set forth in the detail rejections below.

Applicant's argument with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 102 rejections by Ikeda '354 and Ito '014 for claims 13, 7-8 and 9-10 have been considered but moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, **published** under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for the purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.
>
> (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 4, 6, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cho (U.S. 5,396,287).

Regarding claim 13, Cho '287 discloses a camera (i.e., Figs. 5 and 9; col. 8, lines 15+), comprising: a touch panel (i.e., Figs. 5 and 9; col. 8, lines 35+) that determines a pressure being applied on a surface thereof and outputting a signal indicative of the pressure (i.e., as discussed in col. 8, lines 43+ that the continuous changes in the pressure applied to the panel 51 may be detected so that the zooming operation of the camera is changes based on the signal indicative of the continuous changes of the pressure signals outputted by the CPU 18. Moreover, it is cleared from Fig. 9 of Cho '287 that the zooming of the cabin is changed based on the continuous changes of the pressure applied on the touch inputting portion 12 which is detected by the CPU 18 respectively); and

a controller (i.e., the CPU 18) for continuously varying a speed of change of a parameter (i.e., the zooming operation of the camera) base on the signal (i.e., when the pressure is low the magnification is small, and when the pressure is high, the magnification is larger as discussed in col. 8, lines 68+ of Cho '287. Thus, it is cleared that a zoom speed of the camera is capable of continuously varying on the basis of the pressure signal changes detected by the CPU 18; see col. 8, lines 40+, col.).

Regarding claim 14, Cho '287 discloses wherein said controller continuously accumulates the signal and varies the speed based on the accumulated signal (i.e., as discussed in col. 10, lines 60+ that since the parameters for current shooting operation are calculated by the controller 18

from the parameters for the preceding shooting operation when the touch inputting portion is pressed again, it is possible to execute a new shooting operation continuously from the preceding shooting operation. In view of this, it is cleared that the controller 18 is capable of accumulating the pressure signals so that the zoom speed may be varied based on the pressure signals accumulated by the controller 18 as claimed).

Regarding claim 6, Cho '287 discloses that the parameter is a zoom operation item in the camera, and the zooming rate of the camera may be changed according to the pressure signal applied to the touch inputting panel 12 which is determined by the controller (18) when performing the zooming (i.e., Fig. 9-12C; col. 8, lines 40+ - col. 9, lines 20+).

Regarding claim 4, Cho '287 discloses an image display that displays the changes in a pressure being applied on a surface of the touch panel (i.e., noted form Figs. 9 & 12A-12C that when the pressure signal applied to the touch inputting panel 12 is changed, e.g., from the low pressure to the high pressure, the magnification of the image is changes and this changes is displayed on the display device 10 thereof).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 13 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda et al. (US 2002/0110354) in view of Murasaki et al. (U.S. 5,867,158)

Regarding claim 13, Ikeda '354 discloses a camera (Fig. 6) comprising: a touch panel (18a) that determines a pressure being applied on a surface thereof (i.e., as discussed in page 4, paragraph 0076+ that the microprocessor 14 is capable of detecting the continuous changes in a pressure when the user is pressed one of the button, e.g., the replay buttons. It is noted that when the replay button or the scrolling button is pressed by the user, the pressure is continuously changes from the non-pressure state to the pressure state) and outputting a signal indicative of the pressure (i.e., noted that when the continuous pressure changes are detected by the microprocessor 14, the microprocessor 14 generate the signal to perform the respective operations for the selection item. For example, when the user pressed the scrolling button 49 as shown in Fig. 17, the microprocessor 14 detected the continuous pressure changes and generated the signal to perform the scrolling operation thereof); and

a controller (14) for continuously varying a parameter based on the signal (i.e., noted the operation parameters such that Scroll, Pause, Reverse, and Forward, of the camera parameters are varied based on the signal generated by the microprocessor 14 in response to the continuous pressure changes detected thereby; see pages 4 & 5, paragraphs 0076, 0097, and 0104).

Furthermore, it is noted that Ikeda '354 does not explicitly stated that a speed of change of the parameter is continuously varying based on the signal by the controller, however, it is noted that the operation parameters of Ikeda '354 changes based on the pressure changes is

detected by the controller. In view of this, it is obvious that a speed of the parameter has to be varied based on the pressure changed is detected and this is further evidenced by the teaching of Murasaki '158. In particular, Murasaki '158 teaches that it is conventionally well-known in the art that a speed of change of a parameter (i.e., the Scrolling speed of the touch penal) is continuously varying based on the pressure being applied on the surface of the touch panel is detected to be changed (i.e., col. 4, lines 1-10).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the controller of Ikeda '354 as taught by Murasaki '158 so that it is possible to change the speed of change and quantity of movement of the parameters (i.e., see Fig. 22 of Ikeda '354) by merely increasing the pressure applied on the touch panel portion of the camera, thereby the change of the parameters (i.e., Scrolling speed of the display image) may be performed in fast and an easy manner.

Regarding claim 7, Ikeda '354 and Murasaki '158 discloses an image display for displaying reproduced images (i.e., see Figs. 15-21), wherein the parameter is frame forwarding of the reproduced images (i.e., Fig. 19, the element 66), and the controller (14) changes frame forwarding speed based on the signal (i.e., noted that the replay speed, such that Frame Forward speed, of the camera parameter is changed based on the signal generated by the microprocessor 14 in response to the continuous pressure changes detected thereby; see pages 4 & 5, paragraphs 0076, 0097, and 0104; noted col. 4, lines 5+ and col. 15, lines 60+ of Murasaki '158).

Regarding claim 8, Ikeda '354 and Murasaki '158 discloses an image display for displaying reproduced images (i.e., see Figs. 15-21), wherein the parameter is screen scrolling on the image display (i.e., see Fig. 15, the element 33; noted that the scrolling parameter of the camera is changed based on the signal generated by the microprocessor 14 in response to the continuous pressure changes detected thereby; see pages 4 & 5, paragraphs 0076, 0097, and 0104; noted col. 4, lines 5+ and col. 15, lines 60+ of Murasaki '158).

6. Claims 13 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito et al. (U.S. 5,671,014) in view of Murasaki '158 (U.S. 5,867,158).

Regarding claim 13, Ito '014 discloses a camera (Fig. 1) comprising: a touch panel (11) that determines a pressure being applied on a surface thereof (i.e., as discussed in col. 4, lines 31+ that the microcomputer 3 is capable of detecting the continuous changes in a pressure based on the continuous changes of voltage levels when the user is pressed on the touch panel to select the camera's parameter as shown in Figs. 8-9) and outputting a signal indicative of the continuous changes (i.e., It is noted that when the brightness adjustment or the volume adjustment is pressed by the user, the pressure is continuously changes in response to the changes of the voltages, such continuous changes are detected by the microcomputer 3 and the microcomputer 3 generates the signal indicative of the continuous changes to perform the respect control operations for the camera. For example, when the user pressed the brightness adjustment

as shown in Figs. 9A and 9B, the microcomputer 3 detected the continuous pressure changes and generated the signal to perform the brightness adjustment operation thereof); and

a controller (3) for continuously varying a parameter based on the signal (i.e., noted that the speed, such that Stop, Rewind, Fast Forward and either increasing or decreasing the brightness/volume level, of the camera parameters are varied based on the signal generated by the microprocessor 3 in response to the continuous pressure changes detected thereby; see col. 4, lines 33+ and col. 6, lines 15+).

Furthermore, it is noted that Ito '014 does not explicitly stated that a speed of change of the parameter is continuously varying based on the signal by the controller, however, it is noted that the operation parameters of Ito '014 changes based on the pressure changes is detected by the controller. In view of this, it is obvious that a speed of the parameter has to be varied based on the pressure changed is detected and this is further evidenced by the teaching of Murasaki '158. In particular, Murasaki '158 teaches that it is conventionally well-known in the art that a speed of change of a parameter (i.e., the Scrolling speed of the touch penal) is continuously varying based on the pressure being applied on the surface of the touch panel is detected to be changed (i.e., col. 4, lines 1-10).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the controller of Ito '014 as taught by Murasaki '158 so that it is possible to change the speed of change and quantity of movement of the parameters (i.e., see Fig. 1, 9A-9B of Ito '014) by merely increasing the pressure applied on the touch panel

portion of the camera as suggested by Murasaki '158, thereby the change of the parameter (i.e., Scrolling the display image) may be performed in fast and an easy manner.

Regarding claim 9, Ito '014 and Murasaki '158 discloses an image display for displaying images (i.e., col. 2, lines 33+ of Ito '014); and the controller (3) changes luminance (i.e., Brightness) of the image display base on the signal (i.e., Fig. 9B; col. 6, lines 25+ of Ito '014; noted that the speed of the parameters changed based on the pressure changes is determined as suggested by Murasaki '158).

Regarding claim 10, Ito '014 and Murasaki '158 discloses the parameter is volume adjustment at audio reproduction (i.e., Figs. 8 and 9A), and the controller (3) changes the volume at the audio reproduction based on the signal (i.e., col. 6, lines 20+ of Ito '014; and noted that the volume may be adjusted by change the pressure applied to the touch panel as suggested by Murasaki '158).

7. Claims 1, 5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda et al. (US 2002/0110354) in view of Tsuneo et al. (Translation of JP 08-221202).

Regarding claim 1, Ikeda '354 discloses a camera (Fig. 6) comprising: an image display for displaying an image (i.e., Figs. 15-22; Page 3, paragraphs 0057+);

a touch panel (18) for determining a pressure applied on a surface thereof, the touch panel being arranged over the image display (i.e., Fig. 6, the elements' 18 and 19; Page 3, paragraph 0068+ and Page 4, paragraphs 0076+); and

a controller (Fig. 6, the element 14) for controlling operations of the camera according to the pressure determined by the touch panel (i.e., Figs. 15-22; Page 4, paragraphs 0076+ and Page 5, paragraphs 0104+).

Furthermore, it is noted that although Ikeda '354 show the use a controller (14) for detecting the pressure changes for performing a respective control function thereof, Ikeda '354 does not explicitly show the controller performing a first control when the pressure applied on the touch panel is greater than a first predetermined value, and performing a second control when the pressure is greater than a second predetermined value larger than the first predetermined value as recited in the present claimed invention.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tsuneo '202. In particular, Tsuneo '202 teaches that it is conventionally well-known in the art to use a controller (Fig. 2, the element 20) for performing a different control states based on the changes of the pressure signals detected on the touch panel, thereby improving the operability thereof. Furthermore, Tsuneo '202 teaches that the controller (20) is performing a first control (i.e., a selection state) when the pressure applied on the touch panel (24) is greater than a first predetermined value (i.e., noted from Fig. 5 that when the touch strength is greater than zero, then the controller 20 is performing the first control such that a selection state; see paragraphs 0008+ and 0016+), and performing a second control when the pressure is greater than a second predetermined value (i.e., noted from Fig. 5, that when the touch strength is greater than the predetermined value eight, then the controller 20 is performing

the second control such that a definite state; see paragraphs 0008+ and 0016+) larger than the first predetermined value (i.e., noted that the second predetermined value "eight" is larger than the first predetermined value "zero" as shown in Fig. 5).

In view of this, having the system of Ikeda '354 and then given the well-established teaching of Tsuneo '202, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ikeda '354 by providing the touch control means as taught by Tsuneo '202, since Tsuneo '202 suggested in paragraph 0030 that such a modification would permit selection decision of the display item can be carried out easily thereby improvement in operability may be realized.

Regarding claim 5, the combination of Ikeda '354 and Tsuneo '202 discloses wherein the image display displays a plurality of operation items (Figs. 15-22 of Ikeda '354); the touch panel determines a position of a touched portion on the surface thereof (i.e., Page 4, paragraphs 0076+ of Ikeda '354); and the controller (14) performs an operation of one of the plurality of operational items corresponding to the position of the touched portion determined by the touch panel (Page 4, paragraphs 0078+ of Ikeda '354).

Regarding claim 11, noted that claim 11 is analyzed for the same reason as discussed for claim 1 as above, thus, please see the Examiner's comments with respect to claim 1 above.

8. Claims 1-3 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kowno et al. (U.S. 2001/0013897) in view of Tsuneo et al. (Translation of JP 08-221202).

Regarding claim 1, Kowno '897 discloses a camera (Fig. 4) comprising: a display (i.e., the LCD display 6) for displaying an image (i.e., paragraph 0044+);

a touch panel (6A) for determining a pressure applied on a surface thereof, the touch panel being arranged over the image display (i.e., Fig. 4, the elements 39 and 6A; as discussed in paragraphs 0076+ that the CPU 39 is capable of determining a pressure applied on the surface of the touch tablet 6A); and

a controller (Fig. 4, the element 39) for controlling operations of the camera (1) according to the pressure determined by the touch panel (i.e., Figs. 2, 4, 8-9 & 12; page 6, paragraph 0102, 0105+).

Furthermore, it is noted that although Kowno '897 show the use a controller (39) for detecting the pressure changes from the touch tablet 6A for performing a respective control function thereof, Kowno '897 does not explicitly show the controller performing a first control when the pressure applied on the touch panel is greater than a first predetermined value, and performing a second control when the pressure is greater than a second predetermined value larger than the first predetermined value as recited in the present claimed invention.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tsuneo '202. In particular, Tsuneo '202 teaches that it is conventionally well-known in the art to use a controller (Fig. 2, the element 20) for performing a different control states based on the changes of the pressure signals detected on the touch panel, thereby improving the operability thereof. Furthermore, Tsuneo '202 teaches that the controller (20) is

performing a first control (i.e., a selection state) when the pressure applied on the touch panel (24) is greater than a first predetermined value (i.e., noted from Fig. 5 that when the touch strength is greater than zero, then the controller 20 is performing the first control such that a selection state; see paragraphs 0008+ and 0016+), and performing a second control when the pressure is greater than a second predetermined value (i.e., noted from Fig. 5, that when the touch strength is greater than the predetermined value eight, then the controller 20 is performing the second control such that a definite state; see paragraphs 0008+ and 0016+) larger than the first predetermined value (i.e., noted that the second predetermined value "eight" is larger than the first predetermined value "zero" as shown in Fig. 5).

In view of this, having the system of Kowno '897 and then given the well-established teaching of Tsuneo '202, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Kowno '897 by providing the touch control means as taught by Tsuneo '202, since Tsuneo '202 suggested in paragraph 0030 that such a modification would permit selection decision of the display item can be carried out easily thereby improvement in operability may be realized.

Regarding claim 2, as shown in Figs. 7-12, Kowno '897 discloses that when the user is capable of performing a first control of the camera (1) for an image recording preparation by inputting the line-drawing information while pressing the use of touch tablet 6A (i.e., see page 6, paragraphs 0102-0109), and after such information (i.e., the line-drawing information) entering process is completed, the user is also capable of performing a second control of the camera (1)

for recording an image data in the memory 24 by execution key 7B from the touch tablet 6A of the camera 1 (i.e., page 6, paragraphs 0105+ and page 7, paragraphs 0115). Furthermore, the controller (39) is capable of performing the above-mentioned control steps based on the pressure signals detected from the touch tablet 6A (i.e., noted from Figs. 2, 7 and 8 that the controller 39 capable of detecting the pressure changes on the touch tablet 6A when the user may press a corresponding menu keys 7 to enter information and finally the execution key is pressed to recorded the image data and the user's input data respectively).

In view of the above, it is clearly obvious that both the recording preparation process (i.e., line-drawing information and adjusting the magnification of the image) and recording process in the camera system of Kowno '897 are performed based on the pressure values changed when the touch tablet 6A is pressed (i.e., noted that when the touch tablet 6 is pressed by the user, the pressure would change from an initial non-pressed state to the pressed state respectively), and such pressure changes are determined by the controller (39) to performed a respective control function thereof(i.e., noted that when the shutter icon 28 is initially touch, the pressure would be obviously less than when the user's finger is slid in the direction of the arrow shown in Fig. 2).

Moreover, Tsuneo '202 also teaches that it is conventionally well-known to use the pressure sensitive touch panel (24) for changing the operation's functions based on the determination of the pressure change (i.e., see the Abstract of Tsuneo '202). In particular, Tsuneo '202 teaches that the operation state (Fig. 2, the camera 1) may be changed based on the

amount of pressure applied on the pressure sensitive touch-panel (24) is changed from lightly depressed to strongly depressed (i.e., paragraph 0008-0009 and 0021+).

In view of the above, the combination of Kowno '897 and Tsuneo '202 clearly suggested that it is conventionally well-known in the art to use a pressure sensitive touch panel to control the recording preparation process (i.e., inputting line-drawing information/zoom adjusting information as disclosed in Kowno '897) and the recording process (i.e., when the user pressed on the touch sensitive key 7B for recording the user's input data and the image data in the recording medium 24 as disclosed in Kowno '897) based on the different pressure values are determined by the controller so that selection decision of the display item can be carried out easily as suggested by Tsuneo '202 (i.e., see paragraph 0030 of Tsuneo '202).

Regarding claim 3, the combination of Kowno '897 and Tsuneo '202 shows wherein the touch panel determines a position of a touch portion on the surface thereof (i.e., see Figs. 2, 7 and 8 of Kowno '897); and the controller (39) adjusts at least **one of** a focus and an exposure of the camera with respect to a principal subject corresponding to the position of the touch portion determined by the touch panel (i.e., noted from Fig. 8-12 of Kowno '897 that the focal length of the shooting lens 3 is adjust based on the magnification information of the shot image inputted by the user via the touch tablet 6A. For example, as shown in Figs. 8-9 that when the image is zoom-in, the controller 39 is adjusting a focus of the shot image with respect to a principal subject corresponding to the position of the touched portion determined by the touch tablet 6A).

Regarding claims 11-12, please see the Examiner's comments with respect to claims 1 and 2.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Kuno '102 shows the use of a touch panel for changing the speed of change of a parameter based on the pressure signal changes is determined by the control unit (Fig. 3; col. 7, lines 1-15).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aung S. Moe whose telephone number is 703-306-3021. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (9-5).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on 703-305-4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A. Moe